



PATENT

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Judy Lynn Westby et al.

Examiner: Thuan N. Du

Serial No.: 09/193,482

Group Art Unit: 2753

Filed: November 17, 1998

Docket: 934.008US1

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO REDUCE ARBITRATED-LOOP  
OVERHEAD

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on September 26, 2000. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

This response is accompanied by a Petition, to obtain a three-month extension of the period for responding to the Office action, thereby moving the deadline for response from December 26, 2000 to March 26, 2001.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1, 2 and 8-10, and add new claims 18-20 as follows (all claims are reprinted here, and a clean copy of all claims after amendment are provided in an attachment):

1. [Amended Once] A communications channel system for reducing arbitration overhead comprising:

a first channel node having a first port and a second port, each port supporting a fibre-channel arbitrated-loop serial communications channel, wherein each one of the ports arbitrates for control of that port's attached communications channel; and

an arbitration-and-control apparatus to reduce arbitrated-loop overhead, wherein the arbitration-and-control apparatus arbitrates for control of a loop of the communications channel and, after control is achieved, maintains control of the communications channel as long as at least a first predetermined amount of data is available within control of the channel node, wherein the first predetermined amount of data within control of the channel node includes at least some data not available for transfer to the communications channel.

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